

28 January 1955

Chief, IAD  
ATTN : Mr. Arvin Kramish  
IAD/FP - A. C. Malboeuf

AFOIN Proposal to Assign ATLO to Moscow

REF : Letter to Chief, MLB/IAD from Col. M. A. Berry, D/I, USAF dated  
11 January 1955

The suggestion contained in referenced letter to assign Major Kudravets on 90 day TDY to Moscow should be strongly opposed by the Department. This opposition is best supported by an analytical review of the current program underway in the Embassy at Moscow for the procurement of publications, and the resulting bibliographic information available to researchers in Washington, including A-2, pertaining to USSR documentation. It should be pointed out that the referenced letter implies 1) that A-2 is not aware of what Soviet materials of interest to the Air Force, if any, are being received, and 2) that materials of primary interest to the Air Force are unique publications, entirely separate from publications needed by other intelligence arms.

Although there is an Air Attache in Moscow responsive primarily to Air Force needs, it should be understood that the efforts and successes of the Department's Publications Procurement Officer at the Embassy, Mr. James B. Leonard, are of great value to all the intelligence agencies in Washington, including Air Force. This may be illustrated in some detail. Mr. Leonard has received from the Department both specific and guide-type requirements as submitted by a number of intelligence agencies, including NSA, CIA, AMS, AFML, etc. A check of such agencies' requirements will show that their needs cover all phases of economics, technology, science, both theoretical and applied, and, to a lesser but still large degree, the fields of political affairs, geography, geology, sociology, meteorology, etc. When the needs of such non-IAC agencies as USIA, the Congressional Library, Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, Rand Corporation, American Chemical Society, and others are added to Mr. Leonard's imposing list of end-users, it becomes readily apparent that there is no subject field of human endeavor which is not represented in the large flow of publications emanating from Moscow regularly to Washington. The question at this point may be posed: is D/I of USAF cognizant of this large volume of current overt intelligence available to it in Washington?

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

The statement in the referenced letter to the effect "...he (i.e., Major Kudravets) would be expected to survey the publications procured in contrast with those available", infers that the PPO's selections would first be examined by the Air Force representative prior to their pouching and transmission to IAD/FP. Not only would this run counter to the expressed desires of the participating agencies that their materials be pouches as expeditiously as possible after acquisition, but such a procedure would not in itself prove the availability of publications not actually collected. The position of PPO, Moscow has been always staffed by personnel of high-calibre, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] and over the years there has resulted in Moscow a competency in ferreting out vitally needed materials from various outlets and points of contact. The open access to bookstores and stalls in Moscow is being thoroughly exploited by Mr. Leonard, and the publications procured thereby are listed in the monthly publication Russian Book List, a copy of which is attached hereto. A perusal of this particular issue will disclose many items of primary interest to A-2, based on its needs as outlined before the NSCID 16 Committees on Procurement and Exploitation of Foreign Language Publications. The Russian Book List is disseminated widely in Washington, some fifteen (15) copies being disseminated to A-2, attention Major H. G. Neumann, 4A862, Pentagon.

As a corollary to this listing, there is also attached the product of Air Information Division, called Accession List of AF Material for the Month of -----. Thanks to close relationships between Mr. George Pughe, Chief, AID and personnel of IAD/FP, receipts of USSR materials are brought to his attention through working agreements with the Order Division, Library of Congress. In essence, this procedure permits AID to have initial access to all USSR materials which the Library of Congress receives, whether specific orders for the Library or copies of USSR monographs and serial publications received by other government agencies and made available to the Library. In this way, the Library of Congress' publication Monthly List of Russian Accessions represents the most detailed bibliographic record of current USSR publications received in the U.S., since it reflects the acquisitions of most government repositories as well as those received in over sixty U.S. university, academic, and public libraries.

USAF has had and still has the opportunity to participate in the Department's program for acquisition of USSR materials through the PPO, Moscow. This should certainly be explored by the proper authorities if USAF has sufficient interest in same.

For the reasons given above, and for other reasons known best to the Embassy at Moscow (inadequate space, housing, etc.) it is suggested that the proposed TDY for Major Kudravets be denied.